

# point three

October 1996



## IN THIS ISSUE:

'Hospitality'

Divisional Staff Teams

Toc H and the Millennium

THE MAGAZINE OF



TOC H



## point three

TOC H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships and offer service across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it.

TOC H was founded in 1915 by the Rev PB 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about TOC H and about the world, as well as a record of TOC H service. Its title derives from the Third Point of the TOC H compass, which asks us 'to think fairly'. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the TOC H Movement.

*Point three* is available from TOC H at the address below at 80p per issue, (Free to Members and Builders).

Acting Editor:  
John Mitchell

Cover:  
Feeding the bonfire during the 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' project in May at the TOC H camp-site at Rickmansworth.

Picture:  
Nick Howden

The paper used is chlorine-free, environmentally friendly

**TOC H**  
1 Forest Close  
Wendover, Aylesbury,  
Bucks HP22 6BT  
Tel: 01296 623911  
Fax: 01296 696137

### THE MAGAZINE OF



**TOC H**

Reg. Charity No. 211042

TOC H brings together people of different ages, viewpoints, races and faiths in mutual understanding. We base all our work on our Christian principles.

## Motives and Mistakes

**"Man proceeds in a fog. But when he looks back to judge the people of the past, he sees no fog."**

**Milan Kundera**

In July, on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, BBC TV showed a 'Timewatch' programme about General Douglas Haig. Much has been written about the First War generals, the predominant view of military historians being summed up in the comment that the British soldiers were 'lions, led by donkeys'. Haig was widely considered to have been one of the donkeys. In this programme, an Australian historian offered a very different perspective - that Haig was a skillful, and successful, military strategist. Doubtless some historians are moved to challenge accepted wisdom by the possibility of media attention, although I have no wish to impugn this particular historian's motives!

What became clear, and is abundantly clear from other histories, is that military leaders make decisions 'in a fog', especially during battles. Tolstoy, in 'War and Peace', graphically showed the impotence (through ignorance of what was actually happening) of generals, and even the 'genius' of Napoleon, on the battlefield.

The same is true of many decisions people make. It is true for politicians, business people, church leaders, even those who make policy for movements like Toc H. No-one ever has all the facts. One is always, to a greater or lesser degree, making decisions with partial facts, and with no certainty that the effect will be what is intended. With hindsight, Toc H might have made many different decisions in the past ... but then, that is true of the human race as a whole.

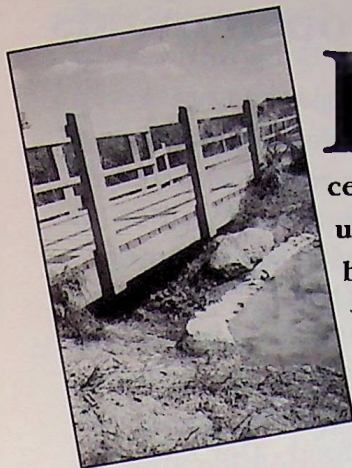
Does that mean that one can never criticise people who make poor decisions? It certainly suggests that one should be wary in condemning people for such decisions on the basis of a subsequent knowledge of the outcome, and other 'hindsight' facts. Fairmindedness demands nothing less. But it is valid to criticise if people ignored facts they had, or deliberately or negligently did not acquire facts they could have done. In doing so, they will have shown that they were not even trying to make the best possible decision ..... and that hints at wrong motivation.

If decisions are taken for bad motives, then the 'fog' defense fails, and people may rightly be criticised. What we must never do, however, (and it is tempting!) is to assume automatically that a poor motive lies behind poor decisions. If we remember Kundera's fog, we are more likely to understand how the decision came to be made, and less likely to criticise unfairly. Let's focus on the motives, not the mistakes.

**John Mitchell**



# TOC H MAKES ITS MARK ON THE MILLENNIUM



**I**t can be hard enough trying to think about how to celebrate a birthday or usher in the New Year, but what do we do when a Millennium comes along! Presents and parties leave a warm glow for a

**little while but where is the lasting legacy, the symbol that demonstrates those important things in life?**

As some may already be aware, the Toc H Northants District has taken a huge stride in solving this dilemma for all of us. It was the instigator and is a leading partner in the Brixworth and Pitsford Countryside Access for All Project. The project aims to harness an enormous community spirit to develop a beautiful landscape which will be designed so that people of all ages, all abilities and all backgrounds can enjoy it equally. It is the embodiment of all those Toc H ideals.

The idea began in the year of Toc H's 80th birthday and all of the project's

main targets will be available to everyone in time to celebrate the Millennium. Not only all of that, but it will grow and mature towards Toc H's centenary.

The headaches and efforts are there for

Toc H Northants District and its partners, but the opportunities are there for everyone to

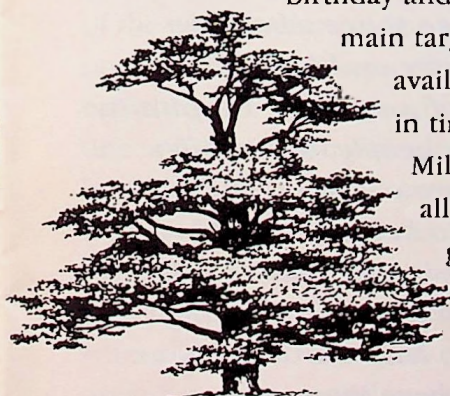
make their mark, large or small, on the turn of this Millennium.

The project has received a £736,000 National Lottery Millennium Award but this cannot be taken up without joint funding from the project. Toc H have a target of raising £200,000 by the year 2000. If successful, the Millennium Commission effectively doubles that to £400,000. The target can be reached with cash or material contributions in kind.

So what could be your mark on the Millennium and legacy to the community? Well, it could be a tree, maybe even an orchard, or even a whole woodland area. It may be a seat for resting and taking in the scenery and country air, a picnic area or a bird hide.

Whatever it is you can rest assured that Toc H's involvement in Brixworth Country Park will ensure that generations (maybe even millennia) to come will have a countryside facility that all can enjoy using all their senses; the young, the old, people with disabilities - in fact everyone who may currently face some barrier or other to accessing and enjoying this valuable part of our heritage.

If you think this is the right opportunity for you to make a mark on the Millennium and have it recorded, no matter how large or small, then contact Megan Graham, 7 Upper Park Avenue, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9NY. It's something that you can watch develop, and come and enjoy.





## Toc H - Open houses, open hearts and open minds

*"Let hope keep you joyful;  
in trouble stand firm;  
persist in prayer;  
contribute to the needs of God's people,  
and practise hospitality."  
(Romans 12:12,13)*

**S**o wrote St Paul to the young church in Rome. But the words might also have been Tubby Clayton's commission to the young Movement of Toc H in the 1920s. And they still give us today a practical outline of the underlying spirit and 'method' of Toc H. Today, being the Open Day of Alison House, I want to talk about Hospitality.

Toc H has had quite a lot to do with houses. It began with a house - Talbot House - where there was a quality of hospitality which made it different from most other places - so different that those who experienced it wanted to bring it home with them after the war and share it with family, friends, and strangers, and pass it on to the next generation - for their own benefit as well as the longer-term good of society and the world. In the next few decades Toc H

expressions of that special quality of hospitality which is Toc H, and have been responsible for drawing people into the Movement. It was a schools week at Dor Knap in Easter 1965 that introduced me to a spirit of hospitality which was different from anything I had ever experienced before, and hooked me! For it is a hospitality which is not just about the quality of the accommodation or the food - Dor Knap in 1965 was quite definitely *not* about either of those two things! But it was a hospitality of heart and mind - an openness which was as welcoming and attractive as the glow of an open doorway or the hearth of an open fire on a cold night.

Reflecting on his own and others' experience of prayer and life in his book, 'Reaching Out', Henri Nouwen looks at some of the adjustments or 'movements' which we need to make in our thinking and attitudes if we are to grow towards wholeness and towards God. One is the need to move from hostility to hospitality. His description of what he means by hospitality is strikingly relevant to Toc H.

*Hospitality means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines. It is not to lead our neighbour into a corner where there are no alternatives left, but to open a wide spectrum of options for choice and commitment. It is not an educated*



The Lounge in "The Oaks" - formerly the garage at Alison House

Marks were an important element of the Movement, offering not only accommodation to people who would otherwise have lived

alone, but also houses open to friends, neighbours, and groups in the local community.

Houses like Dor Knap, Cuddesdon, and Alison House have been more recent



# TALITY

*intimidation with good books, good stories and good works, but the liberation of fearful hearts so that words can find roots and bear ample fruit. It is not a method of making our God and our way into the criteria of happiness, but the opening of an opportunity to others to find their God and their way. The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.*

I believe that this quality of hospitality is as much needed in today's world as ever it was. The experience of many people is of hostility rather than hospitality, and that leads quickly to the breakdown of trust and confidence within individuals and in society at large, the results of which are all too evident as we hear the news day by day. One of the early leaders of Toc H, Barclay Baron, once wrote, "To conquer hate would be to end the strife of all ages; but for men to know one another is not difficult, and it is half the battle". This is at the heart of so much of what Toc H has done, and continues to exist to do. The quality of our hospitality is not measured by what we offer to our friends, but what we offer to strangers. This includes the open-heartedness and open-mindedness which is expressed in the Four Points; and this is one of the basic purposes of the remaining Toc H Houses, and of Alison

House. St Brigid (c.450 - 523) was famed for her generosity, hospitality, and practicality. In a book of Celtic prayers, she is quoted:

*I would welcome the poor and honour them.*

*I would welcome the sick in the presence of angels and ask God to bless and embrace us all.*

*Seeing a stranger approach I would put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place, and look with joy for the blessing of God, who often comes to my home in the blessing of a stranger.*

May this continue to be the quality of hospitality here in Alison House. May all who give and all who receive this hospitality of heart and mind find themselves enriched in body and spirit. And may they take this back to their homes, to the strangers amongst whom they live and work, and share with them this blessing of God.



*Sue Cumming and John Biggerstaff (Toc H Events Co-ordinator) at the Alison House Open Day, flanked by Betty and John Cutt.*

**We have pleasure in reprinting this Address given by Revd Sue Cumming at the Alison House Open Day, 9th June 1996.**



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS



**CHRISTINE MACARTHY** is the new Fundraiser in Division 2. She is a single mum to three children (aged between 23 and 15), a cat, a tortoise, and a neurotic dog! For the last 24 years she has lived in Penarth, but is originally from Pontypridd.

Christine trained as a graphic artist, and has worked professionally in the charity sector for 13 years. She worked first for the National Children's Home, and for the past eight years has been the Appeals and Development Manager for Oxfam in Wales.

**TERRY BROWN**, new Chaplain/Development Officer in Division 3, is not actually new to the staff, as since 1990 he has worked for Toc H in Germany. Initially he was Manager of our Club in Verden, and then he became a Development Officer in Munster in 1992.

Terry's childhood was in a Service family, and he spent time in Australia and Germany. He left school in 1968, and spent ten years in the RAF. He finished his service as a military driver and after leaving the RAF he went into long distance haulage - and he has also sold life insurance and pensions. Before coming to Toc H he was Appeals Organiser for a handicapped children's charity in Lincoln. Terry married Sue in 1976, and they have one son, Nathan.



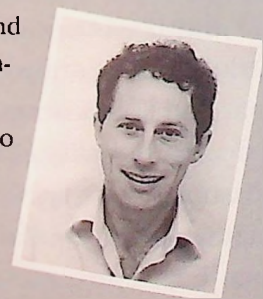
**TOM BERRY** is the new Fundraiser in Division 3. Tom and his wife Mary live in Postling, a Kent hamlet at the foot of the North Downs, near Hythe. They have two grown-up sons, James and Philip. Tom had a career as an engineer with Nuclear Electric, who provided the funds for him to be trained as a charity fundraiser and administrator.

For the last 15 years he has been a volunteer administrator and fundraiser for Lions Clubs International, and for the last two years for their International Foundation. Recently he has been helping to plan the re-building of two children's hospitals in East and West Mostar, in Bosnia, and administering a fund to treat former Yugoslavian children in the UK.

**REVD NICK FAWCETT** is our new Chaplain/Development Officer in Division 2, and will take up his duties from 1st November. Nick hails originally from Southend-on-Sea in Essex. He is married to Deborah, and they have a son, Samuel, who will be 4 years old in October. Nick and Deborah are house hunting at the moment, and hope to move to Deborah's home town of Wellington, Somerset, at the end of October.

Nick trained at Bristol Baptist College and Regents Park College, Oxford, before being ordained in 1984. He has since served churches in Somerset and Lancashire, and is currently working in Cheltenham.

Nick's interests are many and varied, and include: Gardening, Writing, Reading, Walking, Chess, the Flute, Ornithology, Computers, Classical Music, and Golf.





# DIVISIONAL STAFF TEAMS

**F**urther to my article in the April edition of *Point three*, I am able to record that, after the painful rationalisations of staff restructuring, the new Divisional Staff Teams are now in place.

Each Division now has a Development Team made up of a partnership between Members from the Regions and the Divisional Staff. Together, they will be responsible for devising and implementing a Divisional strategy for the development of Toc H. They will deploy the staff and direct their work in supporting and enabling Members and volunteers across the Divisions to set up activities to bring new people to experience Toc H and encourage them to become Members.

I am delighted to introduce the Divisional Staff Team members to you. Some are familiar faces and need no introduction. A few are new to Toc H and I am sure you will give them the traditional open-armed Toc H welcome and help them to establish their new roles and work.

Division 1 (comprising the Scottish and North East Regions and the Northern part of the Mid East Region) has all familiar faces as its staff team:

Development Officers: **John Dunwell & Roger Giles**  
Chaplain/Development Officer: **Tom Elliott**  
Fundraiser: **Stuart Wroe**

Division 2 (comprising North West & North Wales, West Midlands & South Wales, and South West Regions) welcomes Barry who worked previously in Division 1 and two new people to join Cliff:

Development Officers: **Barry Englefield & Cliff Newman**  
Chaplain/Development Officer: **Revd Nick Fawcett**  
Fundraiser: **Christine Macarthy**

Division 3 (comprising the Southern and South East Regions and the southern part of Mid East Region) greets a new fundraiser and a familiar face from Germany to join two very well-known people:

Development Officers: **John Burgess & John Mitchell**  
Chaplain/Development Officer: **Terry Brown**  
Fundraiser: **Tom Berry**

Within the development staff there are also other posts which are paid for by external funding. These people are:

Division 2: Cheshire - **Jenny Carlon & Jo Whiteside**  
Birmingham - **Ken Salt (part time)**  
Plymouth - **Jay Laville (part time)**  
Division 3: Bedford - **Heather Ranasinghe (part time)**  
Buckinghamshire - **Pam Johnson & Jill Wingrove**

The stage is set and the players are all in place. Cue for action!

**MARY EDWARDS**  
Chairman, CEC

## AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TOO - TO THE NEXT EDITOR

**SARAH CLARIDGE** has been appointed our Communications Officer, from 1st September, and that means that, among her many responsibilities (as outlined on p.14 of September *Point three*), she will be taking over as Editor at some stage in the near future.

Sarah is Oxfordshire born and bred, and lives in Woodstock.

Her interest in 'communicating' was fostered by a Modern Languages Degree in French.

She has since had a career in marketing, P.R. and promotions, initially with academic publishers.

Two and a half years ago she moved into the voluntary sector to work as

Communications and Appeals Officer for Advance Housing and Support, a special-needs housing association. She says she has no 'dare-devil' hobbies; her interests include, reading, painting, drawing, the cinema, and socialising with friends.





# Charity Fair '96

**A**pril is long enough ago for me to realise that both the joys and the aching feet of three solid days on an exhibition stand in London are fading memories. So I am sitting down with a fresh cup of tea to read my notes made at the time and put my thoughts in order.

The phrase that instantly comes to my mind in response to the word charity is probably the same for most people: "Charity begins at home." We are all so familiar with the saying yet its meaning has been lost by the rest of the quotation being missed off. And what picture is brought to mind by the word charity? Possibly someone better off giving money, food or medicine to someone poorly off. We have got used to the word in narrow context and have to remind ourselves of its original broader meaning.

I just happened to be in the right place at the right time, or rather made a telephone call to the right person at the right time, and had the offer of a place for a Toc H stand at Charity Fair '96 at a very nominal charge thanks to the National Youth Agency. They were running a youth village with the theme of volunteering and, with the exhibition just a few days away, still had one place empty.

Central Services at Wendover loaned me some enlarged photographs and I scrounged some backing material for free from a local printer, and spent a few hours making a display with the pictures and comments written by volunteers after their first experience of Toc H. The large and well-known charities had stands at the exhibition, but so also did some very small local groups. Visitors came for all sorts of reasons: some worked for charities and wanted to know what other organisations were doing, some were looking for employment, some were looking for volunteering opportunities and many, like Toc H, were trying to find volunteers.

Two hundred and forty people were interested in Toc H projects and took booklets away with them and 66 people gave names and addresses for follow-up or information on various things connected with Toc H. I was invited by the NYA to speak about Toc H projects at an evening workshop on volunteering opportunities for young people. They also asked me to write an article which has since appeared in Volunteer Express.

What was important to me was that it was a real Toc H experience. By sharing the stand with other volunteer organisations we came together and helped each other in recognition that we represented different paths to a similar destination.

The full saying that I was taught about charity is "Charity that begins at home, spreads around the world". And what is charity? My dictionary gives "universal love; thinking favourably of all others".



JIM SIMPSON



# Project Snapshots '96



Off to work at Brixworth Park.  
(See page 3)



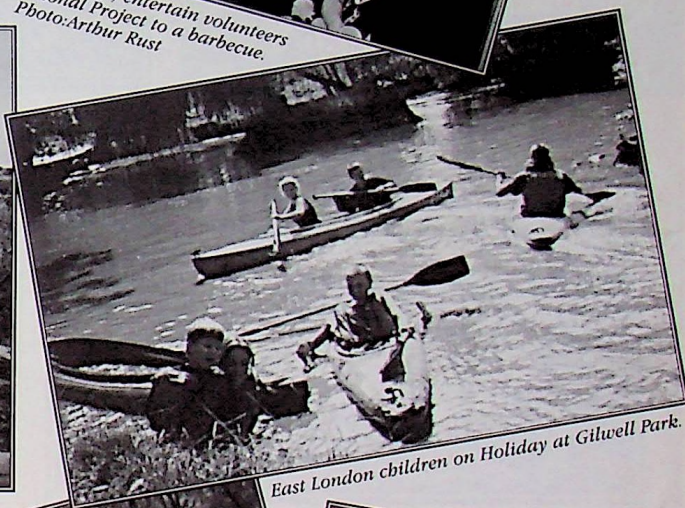
'Conservation with a difference' project, at Burford Priory in July. The volunteer group included three volunteers with learning difficulties



Tubby's Group, Poperinge, entertain volunteers on the International Project to a barbecue.  
Photo: Arthur Rust



At work at Brixworth. (See page 3)

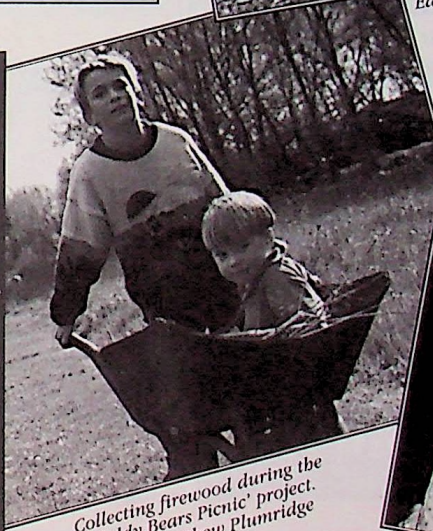


East London children on Holiday at Gilwell Park.

## PROJECT SUPPLEMENT

A supplement to the project programme, covering projects in the Autumn and Winter (and a few in early 1997), has now been produced and is available from Central Services, at Wendover. Please write or phone if you can use some to help our recruitment.

The full programme of projects for Spring and Summer 1997 will be included within a wider 'Events Programme' which will be available in January. Any queries should be addressed to John Biggerstaff, National Events Co-ordinator, at Central Services, Wendover.



Collecting firewood during the 'Teddy Bears Picnic' project.  
Photo: Matthew Plumridge



Revellers at the 'Jimmy Saville Danceathon' project in May, at Cuffley. Photo: Nick Howden.



## BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS



**Phil Watkins, TOC H member and member of Bushill Park Rotary Club, presents a cheque for £200 to The Director after he had spoken at the Club.**

**M**ary Alcock, longest serving member of Wallasey Branch (with over 53 years in membership) cuts the cake at the 60th birthday of the branch.



Thirty-four people, including visitors from other organisations, were welcomed by Cyril Carrier (Regional Chairman) and enjoyed a buffet and a talk by staff member Cliff Newman. A valuable and enjoyable celebration.



A group of members from Middlesbrough treating themselves to a three-day break at Colsterdale - including Ernie, who worked voluntarily behind the Webb House coffee bar day in, day out, for years; Dot who has been a hard-working member of the Branch Out Friendship Circle; Jean and Roger, who staff the drop-in and office; and former staff member Marilyn Surtees. A good time was had by all.



*Photo: The party on arrival at Dunkirk.*

## NEWS FROM PARKHURST

**P**arkhurst Ladies Branch, on the Isle of Wight, are maintaining their reputation as one of our most active branches. Betty Collins writes:

*"What a wonderful day we had on Saturday 8 June, Friendship Day. We - the ladies of Parkhurst Branch - held a coffee morning with many stalls, tombola and raffle. A Ploughmans Lunch was served as well, which was a great success, and over £600 was raised for the Khasdobir Youth Action Group. Everyone (including a few husbands too!) worked very hard, not only on the day but beforehand, to get things ready."*

Also in June, 12 members went on a pilgrimage to France and Belgium on a tour organised by Toc H member, Roger Griffiths, from Peterborough. After two days touring the Somme, they had a further five days at Talbot House, and visited Ieper, Brussels and Bruges. They warmly recommend Roger's leadership, which they found informative, helpful and considerate.

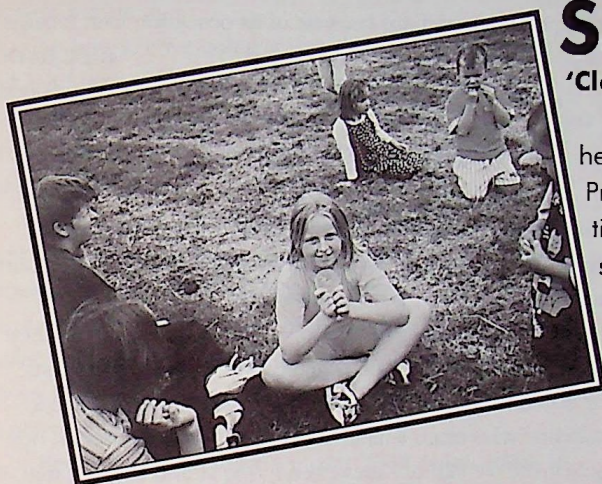
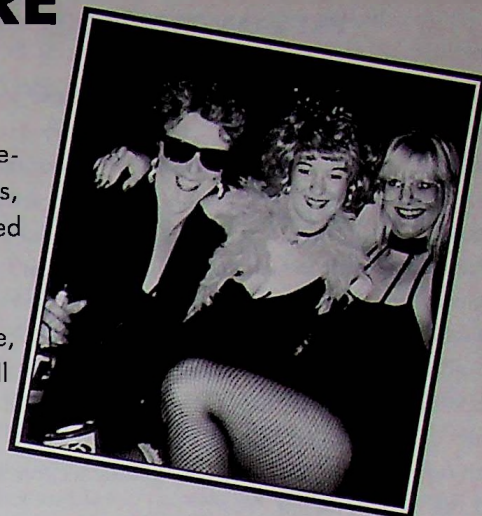
## BRANCH NEWS • BRANCH NEWS



## NEWS FROM CHESHIRE

**O**ne Friday evening in August the town of Nantwich didn't know quite what was happening.

Even the local police were amazed as they watched, on close-circuit television, a large group of Toc H members and volunteers, dressed as vicars and tarts, parading the streets. The group visited pubs to raise money for local Winsford projects, part of the 'Families Under Pressure' scheme in Cheshire. The successful evening raised over £200, and ended with a buffet at The Globe, in Nantwich, thanks to the landlord. Anyone in Cheshire who still thinks Toc H is an ex-serviceman's association is likely to be disabused very soon .... although it is a matter of speculation what they will be thinking instead!



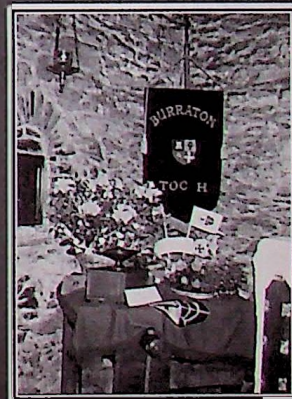
**S**ome of the children who attended one of four Playscheme days at the Adlington 'Claytonfield' Camp this summer.

Jenny Carlon tells us that these were organised to help keep those parents involved in the 'Families Under Pressure' scheme sane throughout the summer! A good time was had by all. They found the camp a perfect setting to allow the children to run off excess energy, the only problem being that they had a lot more energy than the adults! With a mini-Olympics, a treasure hunt, picnic and lots more, everyone had a wonderful time. The kids can't wait till next year.



Members at the annual 'Kent Day, at which the speakers were Ken Prideaux-Brune (centre) and, on HIS right, Pam Johnson, (Friendship Circles, Bucks).

**BURRATON  
BRANCH'S  
DISPLAY AT  
THE  
SALTASH  
FLOWER  
FESTIVAL  
IN JULY.**





## 'PATS ON THE HEAD'

I have been involved with Toc H for about five years now and I really enjoy it. I really believe in the Toc H tradition and what it continually tries to achieve. About three years ago I went to a leadership training weekend at Cuddesdon House. When I went there I was sure that I did not have what it took to become a leader. I am sure that I was not the only person who lacked confidence, but having a disability I had more reason than others to doubt that I would be taken seriously as a leader. The trainers at that weekend assured me that it was no problem and that it really did not matter. I knew they could not fully empathise with my problems, but they had confidence in me which I did not have in myself.

Three years on from that I have really surprised myself. I am sure that Toc H has given me so much confidence in myself which I would not have otherwise had. I am very grateful and I feel that I owe Toc H a great deal.

There is one thing that I do find very frustrating. It is in the field of working with young people with disabilities which I enjoy doing very much. I feel that I have a closer understanding of what they are going through, having been through these difficulties myself, but it is the attitude of many people that I feel needs to change.

In last month's *Point three* there was an article about a holiday run by Denny Branch with members of a club for people with learning difficulties. I hope that other readers were revolted by the people who booked out of the hotel. However, I feel that some people's attitude is a lot worse.

Some people are very patronising towards people with disabilities and that attitude is very wrong. As a handicapped person I get that problem a lot and I find it very frustrating and rude, but I find it incredible that people in Toc H would act this way. One of the points Toc H wants to get across to people outside the Movement is the fact that everybody is equal, but my experience is that not everyone in Toc H acts as if they believe it themselves. On these projects, some people talk quite differently to the volunteers from the way they treat the client group. I know, because they give ME the patronising client group treatment! How can we begin to show outside people what Toc H is all about, unless people within the Movement start to break down the barriers themselves? Sometimes I have to have a lot of self-control to avoid showing them how angry I am, and returning a pat on the head with a thump on the nose.

DI BROOMHEAD  
Hemel Hempstead

## CHANGES IN TOC H

All around is change, and the speed with which it happens is confusing. It is recognised that change may be necessary, even if painful, yet it seems that there is no stability arising from these changes, as one set gives rise to another without pause. I am very concerned at the capacity of present members to sustain yet more changes. Once members were individuals who struggled at least with the illusion that they might make a difference; but now they seem to be unresisting and resigned.

The problem seems to be that if we cannot be consistent, we may become divided; if that happens too often then what strength remains becomes even more diminished. All that cohesion we had as a family and as a force for good becomes lost. It is true that both as individuals and as a family we face defeat at one time or another, it is at those times that survival becomes not only difficult but sometimes impossible. There is a potential power within Toc H that has always been tremendous and forms the greater part of its attractiveness; there is also a certain sadness in the fact that it has never gone beyond that potential, perhaps because of its obsession with change.

BILL BAINS  
Leeds

## LEGACIES FOR TOC H

I read with interest the short article in July *'Point three'* about legacies. As a past Treasurer of Toc H, and still a part time stockbroker, perhaps I can offer a comment.

Everyone dies. Some people will leave money in their wills for their executors to make "discretionary bequests" or donations to charities. Most people of my age have a solicitor who often acts as an Executor. When we visit our solicitors, we can tell them about Toc H and suggest that, if they have discretionary bequests available, Toc H could make good use of them.

The personal approach makes so much difference. Surprisingly often, testators (particularly old ladies who have out-lived their husbands) ask their solicitors for advice when making charitable bequests, or leave each bequest to the solicitors' discretion, particularly solicitors who have served them well. These bequests can be of great benefit to Toc H, particularly at this time when the Movement is in such financial need.

I am sure Ian Pearce at Wendover would be pleased to discuss possibilities for a bequest with a solicitor, and send them some literature.

GERRY ASHFIELD  
Uckfield

Editor's note: A staff member recently spoke to a Rotary meeting and met a solicitor. The outcome was a discretionary bequest of £5,000.



## COBBLERS AND THATCHERS

in reality virtually all members of Toc H belong to a branch. It may not be a branch as we think of them but when you consider the basics of a branch then, be it a Project Group or a CAMEO or most other forms we meet in, the basic intent is the same, ie. a group of people from "across the board" brought together to try to understand each other more and make it a better life for all by trying the Christian Way.

A "popular" view is that a branch is a group of old people meeting on a Tuesday afternoon to drink tea and spread gossip. Well, there may be some branches where this is true, but in my experience most of those I have come across certainly have very much the right spirit even if the body is a bit weak.

As a group becomes more mature it gets harder to introduce new elements to its circle and therefore this tends to restrict recruitment. This is something that happens to us all. After all we do slow up in all other fields, so why not this one. In Projects, however, we have an advantage insofar as we can pick who joins and thereby ensure a wide mix.

So how are we going to achieve it in other areas. I don't know the answer to this but may I suggest a possible way. If we set ourselves a target and then work to it perhaps this will help. I don't mean a target of just looking for members but a more specific one.

Now we are back to the start. How about going out just to recruit a Cobbler or a Thatcher or some other unusual crafts person? How many branches have got an Undertaker or a Midwife or better still, both? Perhaps we could set a prize for the first branch to recruit a Thatcher or an Undertaker or a Midwife. After all, those last two give a pretty wide spread of life.

Bearing in mind there are over 7000 centenarians in the country, how about recruiting a few young 65 year olds or, if it comes to that, how about being a branch with a centenarian. After all, there has got to be a lot of experience there. Now there really is a challenge - a branch with an

Undertaker, a Midwife and a centenarian. Or if you are a craft-minded, how about a Cobbler, a Thatcher and a Glass Blower.

Perhaps these are all a bit extreme, but by now you will have got the drift. How about either coming up with some ideas or better still showing some unusual results. Now is the TIME and today is the DAY, go to it. Remember, Members - Cobblers.

ARTHUR HEFFERNAN  
Newbury

## ON THE INTERNET

Well done to Nick Howden and Dave Cushing.

Charities Aid Foundation expert on the Internet, Roger Sleet, listed some charities worth visiting on the internet in the monthly magazine *Charity* (July/August 1996). Of the Toc H site he said, "...one of my favourite charity sites, just to show what can be done." This is a credit to Nick and Dave, the two Toc H volunteers who manage the site.

For those of you who are on the net, you can visit the Toc H site at: WWW:<http://www.demon.co.uk/charities/toch>.

IAN PEARCE  
Wendover

## ADRIAN DUDMAN

I felt that I had to write after reading the tribute to Adrian Dudman in July *Point three*.

Adrian, for many years, has been the very essence of what the Toc H family has stood for over these past 80 years. From the first time we met at a weekend in Dor Knap, until now, he has made Toc H his life and I for one salute him. Take note you who may be new to Toc H - commitment and continuity are the watchwords. Well done Adrian!

CONNIE TATE  
Much Wenlock

## TOC H AUSTRALIA - MISSION STATEMENT

Toc H in Australia has recently published the following Mission Statement. We would welcome any readers' comments.

Toc H is a viable, active, Christian-based Movement providing fellowship and service in the community and enabling the personal growth of its members. We achieve this by:

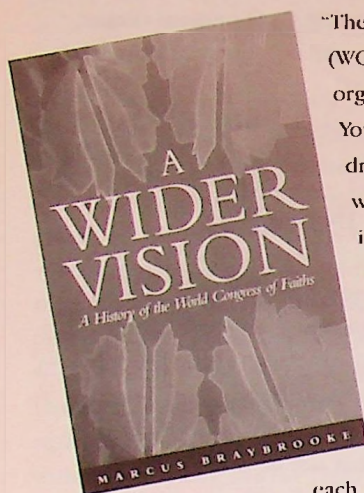
- being aware of community needs and responding to them
- being recognised throughout the Christian Church in Australia as a Movement encouraging spiritual growth and ecumenism and worthy of active support
- being recognised by authorities, welfare agencies and business as worthy of support
- being known for our skills and good practice in our areas of service
- having a fair-minded approach in the development of caring relationships in every sphere of life



# BOOK REVIEW

## A WIDER VISION: A HISTORY OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF FAITHS

by Marcus Braybrooke



"The World Congress of Faiths (WCF) has not become the world organisation that Sir Francis Younghusband (its founder) dreamed of, yet there is now a worldwide movement for inter-religious understanding. The World Congress of Faiths has not gained large popular support, yet there has been a significant shift in attitudes about the relations of religions to each other." So the author of this

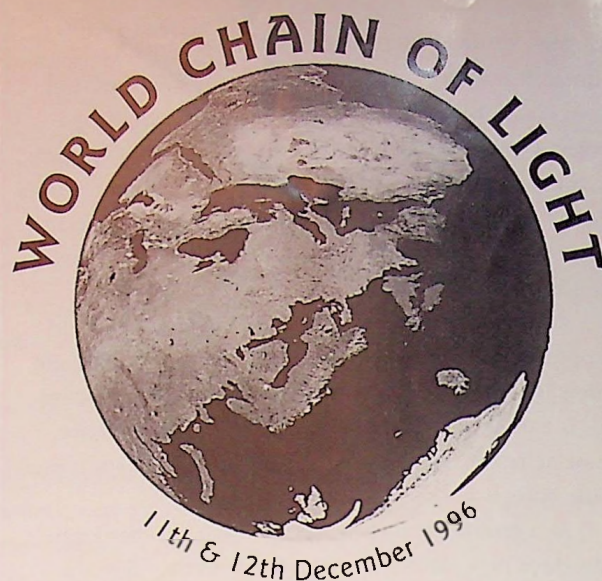
well-written and fascinating account of WCF states in the opening paragraph of his final chapter of the history of a movement about which all too little is known in the UK. The WCF has played a significant role in the growth of inter-religious understanding and co-operation across the world.

When the WCF was founded 60 years ago, most people in Britain viewed the adherents of other religions with suspicion, even hostility. Braybrooke traces the events that changed attitudes and laid the foundations for a more open and positive dialogue between the world religions. He also tells a vivid story of the individuals who played a leading role in this process. Of interest to Toc H members are Tom Gulliver's and Celia Storey's connections with WCF, and they will also learn how the open hand of friendship was to be such an important factor in the inter-religious dialogue.

Marcus Braybrooke brings to life the rich history of a movement exploring some of the key religious issues facing people of faith in today's global village. He raises the sticking points in the dialogue, and describes how people are tackling controversial issues and moving forward. Moreover he describes how from the beginning the dialogue was based on our common humanity and the universality of religious experience rather than upon dogma and religious preconceptions. Braybrooke has interesting things to say about the nature of religious education in a pluralist society, interfaith worship, and how religions can work together for world peace, and ends by looking ahead to access what still needs to be done.

CANON ERIC FORSHAW  
Rector of Clifton, Nottingham

ONE WORLD PUBLICATIONS,  
OXFORD. 189pp £10.95. ISBN 1-85168-119-1



The Vigil will start at 9.00pm on Wednesday 11th December at Prideaux House Chapel, in Hackney, East London. Members and friends are invited to take part in the full 24 hours and join the Toc H London District from 6.30pm with the first Meal and continue through to the closing Service on Thursday 12th. Prideaux House can offer you full-board accommodation for the whole period. Alternatively, you may like to come for just the day on the 12th or you are welcome to just come along, take part in the sessions or theme discussions, and share a meal.

Charges will be sent on application. Members and friends interested in taking part should contact:

**John Burgess:**

66 Park Meadow, Old Hatfield,  
Herts, AL9 5HH  
Tel: 01707 264949

**Revd Gualter de Mello:**

Prideaux House, 10 Church Crescent, Hackney,  
London, E9 7DL  
Tel: 0181 986 6000

For those wishing to understand more fully why the World Chain of Light is starting at Prideaux House this year, we recommend Ken Prideaux-Brune's new book 'ANY PROBLEM IS NO PROBLEM', which outlines the work of the Revd Gualter de Mello, MBE, in Hackney over the past 30 years, and the association with Toc H. It is available from Prideaux House, price £5 + £1 p&p ea.



# Tributes

*We announce, with regret, the death of the following members:*

- JUNE:** Constance Bowes, late Richmond / Marjorie Galbraith, Swindon / Peter Raban, late Southampton
- JULY:** Reginald Allen, Buckingham / Peggy Barton-Smith, Parkhurst / Evelyn Chappell, Spalding  
Ronald Cole, Central Branch / Joyce Elliot, Harpenden / Raymond Eve, Haywain District  
Joan Flemons, late Broadwater / Vivienne Needles, Rhyl North
- AUGUST:** Frances Beeton, late Tayforth District / May Bignell, late Hatfield / Leslie Major, Southampton District / Maurice Travis, Rochdale / 'Binnie' Lupton, Wellingborough
- NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED:**  
Gladys Amundson, Stony Stratford / Dorothy Murfin, Brighton / Esme Osborn, Chalfonts  
Doris Wells, late Central Branch

Wyre Forest Branch are sorry to report the death of Bob (Rudolph) Burki. Bob was a foundation member of the Branch, and always most loyal. His great strength was the support he gave to retired members of Mullers, of Cleobury Mortimer. He was one of those who brought this firm of precision engineers over from Switzerland to London and, when bombed out, to Cleobury. We shall miss him. **WE**

Rochdale Men's Branch regret to announce the death on 19th August of Maurice Travis, after a long illness. A loyal and long serving member, he had held office as Branch Secretary. In addition to his church, his many interests included recorded classical music and the talking newspaper for the blind. He will be greatly missed by his friends. **GB**

With the sudden death on June 27th of Reginald Coates, Toc H Chippenham, and the movement as a whole, has lost a member whose whole life epitomised what Toc H stands for. A one-time member of the CEC, he was involved in many local organisations covering a wide range of interests. In the early days of Greathouse Cheshire Home, he was a member of the management committee and for many years gave weekly film shows there. In 1975, with others, he started the Chippenham Tapes Fellowship which still distributes tapes to nearly 100 housebound people each fortnight. A committed Europhile, he initiated in 1981 the twinning of Chippenham with La Fleche in France, and more recently with Friedberg in Bavaria. Although a diabetic, and three years ago the subject of a quadruple heart by-pass operation, Reg never ceased working for the good of the community. **AR**

Reginald Allen, who died on 25th July, had for a considerable time been a member of the Buckingham Branch. Despite advancing years he was a gifted calligrapher and produced some fine work for the community and Toc H until a few months ago. He will be greatly missed. **DCB**

Joyce Elliott of Harpenden Branch died after a short illness on July 8th. She was the widow of the late Revd. Will Elliott, a former honorary staff padre who, when they first came to Toc H in Harpenden in the mid 1970s, quickly became involved with the movement at a wider level. They ran area and regional holiday weeks at Dor Knap and Alison House and were much involved in the spiritual side of Toc H. After

leaving Harpenden, their Toc H involvement continued at Chester and Buckley where they were highly thought of. After Will became ill they returned to Harpenden in 1993, where he died a few months later. Joyce continued her involvement with Toc H at Harpenden Branch where she was active until a few weeks before her death. **TG**

We are sad to have to report the death in July, after a long illness, of Frances Beeton, at the age of 91. Frances became involved in Toc H at an early age, through the launch of a branch of the Women's Association in Edinburgh in 1930, and subsequently she gave a lifetime of service to Toc H. She joined the Toc H W.A. staff in 1953, and acted as Regional Secretary covering Scotland, the North of England, and N. Ireland until her retirement in 1966. During her time on the staff she acquired a reputation for assiduous care and support of members, even if that meant many hours of driving, on her own, on isolated roads, and her enthusiasm and warm personality transformed all meetings she attended. She was much involved in the wider community, being a deaconess, and one of the people who launched the Sue Ryder shop in Edinburgh. After her retirement she remained active in Toc H Scotland until prevented by ill health. We will remember her.

The Dowager Countess of Mar and Kellie, who died in August, numbered Toc H among the many charities she supported. She was a Vice President of the Toc H W.A. from 1964 until integration, and took a keen interest in its work.

Joan Flemons, formerly of Broadwater Branch and latterly a member of the S.E. Regional branch, died in August aged 72. She first became involved in Toc H in 1978 and held many offices, and was District Treasurer for many years. She was a very accomplished person - a splendid organiser (especially of rededication services), a painter, weaver, musician, silk-screen printer, and a good cook, and despite years of increasing ill-health, a most capable and caring member. She was an inspiration and help to many. **MO**

Evelyn Chappell, who died in July, aged 94, was a staunch member for over 50 years, and had held most offices, at all levels, with her usual cheerfulness and enthusiasm. Although she could not take an active part in Toc H for the past six years, her wisdom was always welcome. She was a devout Christian and true friend of many who feel privileged to have known her and will miss her sadly. **EV**



## **ORDER YOUR TOC H 1997 DIARY NOW!**

**Outstandingly good value at only  
£1.75 (inc. p&p). Attractive slimline  
design; in navy blue with ribbon.  
Available now from Central Services,  
Wendover, or order copies for  
collection at Council**

## **TOC H CAROL SERVICE AT ALL HALLOWS CHURCH**

**Saturday 14 December at 2.30pm  
For further details please contact:**

**Connie Pring, 39 Princes Plain,  
Bromley Common,  
Kent BR2 8LH**

**Tel:0181 462 8164 (after 7pm)**

## **INTERCESSIONS ACROSS THE WORLD 1996**

The latest revised edition of the Intercessions leaflet  
is now available from Central Services, Wendover.

## **TOC H LINDRIDGE HOUSE LINDRIDGE HILL, KINGSTEIGNTON, DEVON**

Set in three acres of rolling Devon hillside, this  
converted farmhouse offers self-catering  
accommodation for up to 13 people.

For further details contact:

**THE CENTRE MANAGER,  
LINDRIDGE HOUSE  
LINDRIDGE HILL, KINGSTEIGNTON  
NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON, TQ12 3QE**

## **ACCOUNTS**

The Accounts to 31 March 1996 for Toc H are  
now ready, and will be presented to Central  
Council in November. Anyone wishing to  
receive a copy, should contact John  
Matthews, Head of Finance & Properties, at  
Central Services, Wendover.

## **The TOC H Annual Lecture on Reconciliation**

to be delivered by **Kate Adie**

Chief News Correspondent, BBC Newsgathering

on **Wednesday 11 December 1996 at The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**

St John's Wood, London NW

at 7 pm (arrivals from 6.15 pm)

Sponsored by the Wakefield Trust

**All Welcome** Entrance by ticket only.

Please apply to:

John Biggerstaff, TOC H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover,  
Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 6BT Tel:01296 623911



**TOC H**

*Bringing people together*

Registered charity number 211042